

# Englist.me



## Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Marc Fagelson: What's that ringing in your ears? |

TED Talk

[https://www.ted.com/talks/marc\\_fagelson\\_what\\_s\\_that\\_ringing\\_in\\_your\\_ears](https://www.ted.com/talks/marc_fagelson_what_s_that_ringing_in_your_ears)

### Advanced Words Only

#### IMPORTANT

This material is a commentary and does not contain any copyrighted material of the reference source. We strongly recommend accessing/buying the reference source at the same time.

## Session 1: Word List

### tinnitus

*n.* a ringing, buzzing, or other noise in the ears or head that is not caused by an external sound source; often associated with hearing loss or damage to the ear

*synonym*: ringing, buzzing, humming

(1) **tinnitus** treatment, (2) chronic **tinnitus**

She suffered from severe **tinnitus** after attending a loud concert without earplugs.

### hiss

*v.* to make a sound similar to a sharp exhalation or steam escaping under pressure, often expressing disapproval, anger, or fear; to produce a sound that is shrill and prolonged, often resembling the hissing of a snake; (noun) a sound or noise made by a person or animal, characterized by a sharp, prolonged "s" sound

*synonym*: whish, sibilate, wheeze

(1) **hiss** warningly at the intruder, (2) the **hiss** of a snake

The cat arched its back and **hissed** at the approaching dog.

### auditory

*adj.* of or relating to hearing or the ability to hear

*synonym*: hearing, audible, aural

(1) a good **auditory** memory, (2) **auditory** system

The **auditory** nerve carries sound signals from the ear to the brain.

## displace

v. to force someone or something to leave their home or place of origin, especially as a result of conflict, natural disaster, or manipulation

*synonym* : evict, exile, remove

(1) **displace** workers, (2) **displace** the explosive power  
The construction of the new dam will **displace** hundreds of families living downstream.

## cochlea

n. a spiral-shaped cavity in the inner ear that is responsible for hearing; it contains sensory hair cells that convert vibrations into electrical signals that are sent to the brain for interpretation

*synonym* : spiral organ, snail shell, inner ear

(1) **cochlea** spiral, (2) implanted **cochlea**  
Damage to the **cochlea** can cause hearing loss or deafness.

## elicit

v. to obtain information or a reaction from someone, usually with difficulty

*synonym* : bring out, obtain, evoke

(1) **elicit** a confession, (2) **elicit** a solution  
Have you **elicited** a response from them yet?

## bioelectricity

n. the electrical phenomena occurring within living organisms, especially in cells and tissues, resulting from the movement of charged particles across cell membranes and the generation of electrical potentials

*synonym* : biological currents

(1) **bioelectricity** in cells, (2) **bioelectricity** experiments  
Researchers are exploring ways to harness **bioelectricity** to develop innovative medical treatments and therapies.

## mammal

n. any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body

(1) a primitive **mammal**, (2) a sort of **mammal**  
Marine **mammal** populations are declining worldwide due to ocean pollution.

## toxin

*n.* a poisonous substance produced by a living organism, such as a plant, animal, or microorganism; a chemical compound that can cause harm or illness to a living organism

*synonym* : poison, venom, contaminant

(1) **toxin** exposure, (2) **toxin** production

Mold exposure can release dangerous **toxins** into the air.

## devote

*v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose

*synonym* : commit, dedicate, apply

(1) **devote** all of my energies, (2) **devote** my own life

He **devoted** himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.

## knob

*n.* a round handle, especially one used for opening or closing a door, drawer, or cabinet

*synonym* : handle, lever

(1) handy **knob**, (2) **knob** closure

The **knob** on the drawer was loose and needed to be tightened.

## tweak

*v.* to pinch or squeeze something sharply; to adjust something finely

*synonym* : nip, pinch, fine-tune

(1) **tweak** his cheek, (2) **tweak** the economy

He didn't **tweak** the plan, even though he had time.

## intrude

*v.* to enter or to be present in a place or situation where one is not wanted or allowed; to interrupt or disturb someone or something

*synonym* : impose, obtrude, interlope

(1) **intrude** on his personal space, (2) **intrude** on other people's conversations

The loud music from the party next door **intruded** into my peaceful evening at home.

## exacerbate

v. to make a situation, problem, or feeling worse

*synonym*: worsen, aggravate, escalate

(1) **exacerbate** the situation, (2) **exacerbate** symptoms

The heat wave **exacerbated** the drought conditions.

## insomnia

n. the condition of being unable to sleep, usually a chronic one

*synonym*: sleeplessness, wakefulness, restlessness

(1) medication for **insomnia**, (2) alcohol-dependent

**insomnia**

He suffered **insomnia** and loss of appetite after he began taking that medication.

## soothe

v. to calm or comfort someone or something; to make something less painful or uncomfortable

*synonym*: calm, relax, comfort

(1) **soothe** anxiety, (2) **soothe** a baby to sleep

She applied aloe vera to **soothe** her sunburn.

## distract

v. to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do

*synonym*: divert, preoccupy, confuse

(1) **distract** attention from the real issue, (2) **distract** public opinion

Please don't **distract** me while I'm studying.

## neuron

n. a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body

*synonym*: nerve cell

(1) excite the **neurons**, (2) **neuron** cell body

Our body transfers information along each **neuron** using an electrical impulse.

## rev

n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

*synonym* : revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

## **eavesdrop**

v. to listen to someone else's conversation without their knowledge or permission

*synonym* : listen in, spy, overhear

(1) **eavesdrop** conversation, (2) **eavesdrop** on a secret plot

I accidentally **eavesdropped** on a confidential meeting last week.

## Session 2: Spelling

- |  |           |   |
|--|-----------|---|
| 1. r_v up the crowd                        | <i>n.</i> | a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute |
| 2. di____ct attention from the real issue  | <i>v.</i> | to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do  |
| 3. di____ct public opinion                 | <i>v.</i> | to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do  |
| 4. ea_____op conversation                  | <i>v.</i> | to listen to someone else's conversation without their knowledge or permission  |
| 5. in____e on other people's conversations | <i>v.</i> | to enter or to be present in a place or situation where one is not wanted or allowed; to interrupt or disturb someone or something                                |
| 6. de___e my own life                      | <i>v.</i> | to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose  |
| 7. ne___n cell body                        | <i>n.</i> | a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body  |
| 8. ti____us treatment                      | <i>n.</i> | a ringing, buzzing, or other noise in the ears or head that is not caused by an external sound source; often associated with hearing loss or damage to the ear    |

ANSWERS: 1. rev, 2. distract, 3. distract, 4. eavesdrop, 5. intrude, 6. devote, 7. neuron, 8. tinnitus

9. h\_\_s warningly at the intruder      v. to make a sound similar to a sharp exhalation or steam escaping under pressure, often expressing disapproval, anger, or fear; to produce a sound that is shrill and prolonged, often resembling the hissing of a snake; (noun) a sound or noise made by a person or animal, characterized by a sharp, prolonged "s" sound
10. tw\_\_k the economy      v. to pinch or squeeze something sharply; to adjust something finely
11. the h\_\_s of a snake      v. to make a sound similar to a sharp exhalation or steam escaping under pressure, often expressing disapproval, anger, or fear; to produce a sound that is shrill and prolonged, often resembling the hissing of a snake; (noun) a sound or noise made by a person or animal, characterized by a sharp, prolonged "s" sound
12. to\_\_n exposure      n. a poisonous substance produced by a living organism, such as a plant, animal, or microorganism; a chemical compound that can cause harm or illness to a living organism
13. ea\_\_\_\_\_op on a secret plot      v. to listen to someone else's conversation without their knowledge or permission
14. a sort of ma\_\_\_l      n. any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body

ANSWERS: 9. hiss, 10. tweak, 11. hiss, 12. toxin, 13. eavesdrop, 14. mammal

15. implanted co\_\_\_\_a *n.* a spiral-shaped cavity in the inner ear that is responsible for hearing; it contains sensory hair cells that convert vibrations into electrical signals that are sent to the brain for interpretation
16. to\_\_n production *n.* a poisonous substance produced by a living organism, such as a plant, animal, or microorganism; a chemical compound that can cause harm or illness to a living organism
17. so\_\_\_e a baby to sleep *v.* to calm or comfort someone or something; to make something less painful or uncomfortable
18. au\_\_\_\_ry system *adj.* of or relating to hearing or the ability to hear
19. in\_\_\_\_e on his personal space *v.* to enter or to be present in a place or situation where one is not wanted or allowed; to interrupt or disturb someone or something
20. di\_\_\_\_ce workers *v.* to force someone or something to leave their home or place of origin, especially as a result of conflict, natural disaster, or manipulation
21. handy k\_\_b *n.* a round handle, especially one used for opening or closing a door, drawer, or cabinet
22. excite the ne\_\_\_\_ns *n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body

ANSWERS: 15. cochlea, 16. toxin, 17. soothe, 18. auditory, 19. intrude, 20. displace, 21. knob, 22. neuron



23. alcohol-dependent in\_\_\_\_\_ia *n.* the condition of being unable to sleep, usually a chronic one
24. el\_\_\_\_t a confession *v.* to obtain information or a reaction from someone, usually with difficulty
25. chronic ti\_\_\_\_\_us *n.* a ringing, buzzing, or other noise in the ears or head that is not caused by an external sound source; often associated with hearing loss or damage to the ear
26. tw\_\_k his cheek *v.* to pinch or squeeze something sharply; to adjust something finely
27. bio\_\_\_\_\_ity in cells *n.* the electrical phenomena occurring within living organisms, especially in cells and tissues, resulting from the movement of charged particles across cell membranes and the generation of electrical potentials
28. exa\_\_\_\_\_te the situation *v.* to make a situation, problem, or feeling worse
29. co\_\_\_\_\_a spiral *n.* a spiral-shaped cavity in the inner ear that is responsible for hearing; it contains sensory hair cells that convert vibrations into electrical signals that are sent to the brain for interpretation
30. de\_\_\_e all of my energies *v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
31. el\_\_\_\_t a solution *v.* to obtain information or a reaction from someone, usually with difficulty
32. k\_\_b closure *n.* a round handle, especially one used for opening or closing a door, drawer, or cabinet

ANSWERS: 23. insomnia, 24. elicit, 25. tinnitus, 26. tweak, 27. bioelectricity, 28. exacerbate, 29. cochlea, 30. devote, 31. elicit, 32. knob

33. a good au\_\_\_\_ry memory *adj.* of or relating to hearing or the ability to hear
34. bio\_\_\_\_\_ity experiments *n.* the electrical phenomena occurring within living organisms, especially in cells and tissues, resulting from the movement of charged particles across cell membranes and the generation of electrical potentials
35. so\_\_\_e anxiety *v.* to calm or comfort someone or something; to make something less painful or uncomfortable
36. di\_\_\_\_\_ce the explosive power *v.* to force someone or something to leave their home or place of origin, especially as a result of conflict, natural disaster, or manipulation
37. a primitive ma\_\_\_\_l *n.* any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body
38. exa\_\_\_\_\_te symptoms *v.* to make a situation, problem, or feeling worse
39. medication for in\_\_\_\_\_ia *n.* the condition of being unable to sleep, usually a chronic one
40. low-r\_v engine *n.* a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

ANSWERS: 33. auditory, 34. bioelectricity, 35. soothe, 36. displace, 37. mammal, 38. exacerbate, 39. insomnia, 40. rev

## Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. She applied aloe vera to \_\_\_\_\_ her sunburn.
  - v. to calm or comfort someone or something; to make something less painful or uncomfortable
  
2. The construction of the new dam will \_\_\_\_\_ hundreds of families living downstream.
  - v. to force someone or something to leave their home or place of origin, especially as a result of conflict, natural disaster, or manipulation
  
3. He didn't \_\_\_\_\_ the plan, even though he had time.
  - v. to pinch or squeeze something sharply; to adjust something finely
  
4. The loud music from the party next door \_\_\_\_\_ into my peaceful evening at home.
  - v. to enter or to be present in a place or situation where one is not wanted or allowed; to interrupt or disturb someone or something
  
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ on the drawer was loose and needed to be tightened.
  - n. a round handle, especially one used for opening or closing a door, drawer, or cabinet
  
6. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud \_\_\_\_\_.
  - n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
  
7. Damage to the \_\_\_\_\_ can cause hearing loss or deafness.
  - n. a spiral-shaped cavity in the inner ear that is responsible for hearing; it contains sensory hair cells that convert vibrations into electrical signals that are sent to the brain for interpretation

ANSWERS: 1. soothe, 2. displace, 3. tweak, 4. intruded, 5. knob, 6. rev, 7. cochlea

8. The cat arched its back and \_\_\_\_\_ at the approaching dog.
- v.* to make a sound similar to a sharp exhalation or steam escaping under pressure, often expressing disapproval, anger, or fear; to produce a sound that is shrill and prolonged, often resembling the hissing of a snake; (noun) a sound or noise made by a person or animal, characterized by a sharp, prolonged "s" sound
9. I accidentally \_\_\_\_\_ on a confidential meeting last week.
- v.* to listen to someone else's conversation without their knowledge or permission
10. Mold exposure can release dangerous \_\_\_\_\_ into the air.
- n.* a poisonous substance produced by a living organism, such as a plant, animal, or microorganism; a chemical compound that can cause harm or illness to a living organism
11. Marine \_\_\_\_\_ populations are declining worldwide due to ocean pollution.
- n.* any animal of which the female gives birth to live young, not eggs, and feeds her young on milk from her own body
12. Researchers are exploring ways to harness \_\_\_\_\_ to develop innovative medical treatments and therapies.
- n.* the electrical phenomena occurring within living organisms, especially in cells and tissues, resulting from the movement of charged particles across cell membranes and the generation of electrical potentials
13. The heat wave \_\_\_\_\_ the drought conditions.
- v.* to make a situation, problem, or feeling worse
14. She suffered from severe \_\_\_\_\_ after attending a loud concert without earplugs.
- n.* a ringing, buzzing, or other noise in the ears or head that is not caused by an external sound source; often associated with hearing loss or damage to the ear

ANSWERS: 8. hissed, 9. eavesdropped, 10. toxins, 11. mammal, 12. bioelectricity, 13. exacerbated, 14. tinnitus

15. He \_\_\_\_\_ himself to studying the history of ancient civilizations.  
*v.* to commit or dedicate oneself or one's time, effort, or energy to a particular task or purpose
16. He suffered \_\_\_\_\_ and loss of appetite after he began taking that medication.  
*n.* the condition of being unable to sleep, usually a chronic one
17. Please don't \_\_\_\_\_ me while I'm studying.  
*v.* to draw someone's attention away from what they are trying to do
18. Have you \_\_\_\_\_ a response from them yet?  
*v.* to obtain information or a reaction from someone, usually with difficulty
19. Our body transfers information along each \_\_\_\_\_ using an electrical impulse.  
*n.* a cell that is specialized to carry information within the brain and between the brain and other parts of the body
20. The \_\_\_\_\_ nerve carries sound signals from the ear to the brain.  
*adj.* of or relating to hearing or the ability to hear

ANSWERS: 15. devoted, 16. insomnia, 17. distract, 18. elicited, 19. neuron, 20. auditory